

Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /041 R

DRAFTED BY D/HA:ORM:GMETSON:CAF

APPROVED BY D/HA:JLCARLIN

AF/I - WLEWIS

AF/W - AARENALES

D/HA - HBCUSHING

-----021914Z 096289 /40

P 021547Z MAY 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098563

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: CABINDAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE

REF: KINSHASA 3594

1. DEPARTMENT HAS DISCUSSED REFTTEL WITH DAYAL UNHCR/NY AND WITH US MISSION GENEVA. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT PROBLEMS RAISED REFLECT AMBIGUITIES IN INSTRUCTIONS FROM UNHCR/GENEVA TO UNHCR/ZAIRE. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT INTENT OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS IS GENERALLY IN LINE WITH US PERCEPTION OF THE PROBLEM.

2. DESPITE GUIDELINES FOR RELOCATION OF REFUGEES TO AREAS AT LEAST 20 KILOMETERS FROM THE CABINDAN BORDER, WE UNDERSTAND INSTRUCTIONS TO NOEL CLEARLY INCLUDE ASSISTANCE TO KARTYP TEMBE AND TO THE KUIBA HOSPITAL. DAYAL EXPLAINS
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THIS BY STATING THE 20 KILOMETERS LIMIT REFERS TO DISTANCE BY ROAD RATHER THAN BY AIR. WE BELIEVE, IN FACT, THAT THIS MAY SIMPLY BE A FACE SAVING FORMULA FOR NOEL'S BENEFIT BUT ARE NOT INCLINED TO PURSUE THE POINT IF THE LOCATIONS IN QUESTION ARE PROVIDED ADEQUATE ASSISTANCE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO DIFFERENCES IN THE NUMBERS OF REFU-

GEES REPORTED AND THE CONFUSION OCCASIONED BY THE MIXING TOGETHER OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE TSHELA AND THE CATARACTS SUBREGIONS, WE BELIEVE THESE MATTERS WILL SORT THEMSELVES OUT WHEN NOEL SUBMITS HIS DETAILED PROGRAM PROPOSALS FOR APPROVAL BY GENEVA. WE UNDERSTAND FROM DAYAL THAT SUCH PROPOSALS ARE EXPECTED SHORTLY AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE BROKEN DOWN IN SUB-PROGRAMS BY REGION.

4. FOR GENEVA: THE STATED INTENTION OF UNHCR TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO UP TO 40,000 REFUGEES IN THESE TWO AREAS STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT THE UNHCR IS NOW MOVING TO SOLVE THIS LONG STANDING PROBLEM. CONTINUED AMBIGUITIES, HOWEVER, MAKE IT IMPORTANT FOR THE US MISSION TO FOLLOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PROGRAM CAREFULLY AND TO COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH EMBASSY KINSHASA BEFORE INDICATING OUR APPROVAL OF ANY PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY NOEL. MISSION SHOULD INDICATE TO MAKE OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN REVIEWING THE PROGRAM AS IT DEVELOPS. WE ARE CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT BY A DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE TO GENEVA AND KINSHASA IN LATE MAY IN THIS CONNECTION.

5. FOR KINSHASA: (A) SHEPARD LOWMAN, DIRECTOR PROGRAMS AND ASYLUM DIVISION (ORM), EXPECTS TO BE TRAVELING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN LATTER PART OF MAY AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO VISIT KINSHASA AND TSHELA REGION, IF EMBASSY CONSIDERS SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE HELPFUL. REQUEST EMBASSY COMMENT, INCLUDING TIME REQUIRED IF A VISIT TO TSHELA IS RECOMMENDED. (B) REQUEST EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORT FOR UNHCR TO RELOCATE REFUGEES TO RESETTLE-
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MENT SITES. DOES LOCAL OFFICE HAVE FINANCES TO HANDLE OPERATION NOW?
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE098563
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ORM:GMETSON:CAF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770153-0546
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197705103/aaaadllp.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b934e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KINSHASA 3594
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2329576
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CABINDAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE
TAGS: SREF, CG, AO
To: KINSHASA GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b934e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009